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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	1762	~~Press~~
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	25-7-1876	196

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 239. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 30th May 1876, No. 1,415 :—

Read the following letter from W. S. WHITESIDE, Esq., Collector of North Arcot, to C. A. GALTON, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Palmanair, 8th May 1876, No. 206.

I HAVE the honor to report that, in the early part of last year, I had reason to believe that the toddy-renters had established many shops all over the district far in excess of the authorized number, and I caused inquiries to be set on foot. I could obtain, however, no information from the Police on the subject, and the toddy-renters, when I referred to them, were, of course, loud in their protestations of innocence. They declared that the shops they had then opened were very insufficient, and presented to me a list of 409 places in which they proposed to open additional shops, for which they asked me to grant them licenses. I declined to do this as I had already issued to them licenses for 953 shops, which was 100 in excess of the number sanctioned during former leases.

2. As the lease drew towards its close, I became convinced that unlicensed shops were in existence in many places; and as, in spite of my requisition, the Police did not furnish me with any information, I determined to depute Vencata Subbiah, then Tahsildar of Chittoor and now Acting Tahsildar of Arcot, specially on that duty, which, I am glad to say, he performed most efficiently and with great cool and intelligence.

3. He succeeded in discovering that no less than 29 unlicensed shops had been fraudulently opened in the taluq of Chittoor alone by the sub-renter, Arunachella Mudali, and liquor sold therein for a length of time. Arunachella Mudali was then prosecuted before me by Vencata Subbiah, and I convicted and fined him in the sum of Rupees 2,000 on that charge. The offender paid the fine at once without any demur, and at the same time stated that he had no intention of appealing against my sentence. This clearly shows what enormous profits he must have made by his illicit trade in toddy, and how cheaply he considered that he had got off.

4. My suspicions having been, at the same time, directed towards the sub-renter of the Wallajah Taluq, I detailed Vencata Subbiah thither with authority to take possession of the accounts and books belonging to that man; but, before the Tahsildar could arrive at the spot, the sub-renter, Iyasami Mudali, having heard of the result of the trial of Arunachella Mudali, succeeded in making away with or destroying every paper that could in any way throw light on the manner in which he had worked his lease. The information I have received affords me every reason to believe that many illicit shops were opened by him and also by the late Chittoor sub-renter in the Chendragherry Taluq. But, in the absence of the accounts, it would now be very difficult indeed to prove each case of fraud.

5. I beg now to draw the attention of the Board to my remarks in paragraphs 9 and 13 of my abkari administration report for Fasli 1284 embodied in Board's Proceedings, dated 22nd September last, No. 2,657. Illicit dealers in toddy, of course, sell it very much under the ordinary price, and members of the poorer class, as is but natural, eagerly avail themselves of the opportunity for getting their liquor cheap. The large falling off in the arrack revenue is,

therefore, I believe, chiefly due to systematic and continued malpractices on the part of the late toddy-renters.

6. It is impossible that this state of things could have gone on so openly without the knowledge of the Police, and their entire failure to render even the smallest assistance in detecting and bringing to trial the frauds of the Chittoor sub-renter shows very clearly, in my opinion, that the local police officials were acting in collusion with the sub-renter, it can hardly be supposed, from disinterested motives. The 28 unlicensed shops in the Chittoor Taluq were kept open for many months, and that the parties who vended liquor therein had no licenses at all and were only acting under the orders of the sub-renter was a matter capable of easy discovery. When, therefore, the police, although their attention has been specially directed to the subject by me, failed to give the very slightest information as required, I think I am not misjudging them when I believe they were aware of, but, for private reasons of their own, did not wish to bring, the frauds to light, and I am the more strengthened in this opinion when I call to mind the fact that it was the abkari renters' people, and not the Police, who detected and brought before me for trial the two instances (both of them in the Chittoor Taluq) in which illicit stills had been erected and arrack was being illegally sold.

7. It is very possible that in other districts where there has been a heavy falling off in the arrack revenue the same sort of fraud may now be practised by the toddy sub-renters, and on this point it might be well to institute careful inquiries.

SUBMITTED for the information of Government.

2. This report shows that illicit sale of toddy prevailed last year to a great extent in Chittoor, and was only detected by the deputation of a special officer by the Collector. The Collector complains that he received neither information nor aid on this point from the Police, who certainly ought to have known of the existence of so many unlicensed shops. It is possible that special inquiries may reveal similar practices in Salem and Coimbatore, and the Collectors are requested to take steps to ascertain whether there is any reason to suppose such to be the case.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) C. A. GALTON,
Acting Secretary.

No. 240.

ORDER THEREON, 23rd June 1876, No. 840.

Separate Revenue, No. 29.
Abkari.

RECORDED. These Proceedings will be communicated to the Judicial Department for the necessary orders being issued to the Inspector-General of Police.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) D. F. CARMICHAEL,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
„ the Judicial Department.
sd. F. R. Bantleman.

No. 3373

Chief Office of the Inspector General
of Police,
Madras, 2nd July 1876.

From

The Assistant Inspector General of Police,

To

The Under Secretary
to Government
Revenue Department

Sir,

Enclosures.

I have the honor to request that
you will be good enough to cause this
Office to be supplied with 5 copies of G.O.
N^o. 840 dated 23rd June 1876 R.D.

I have the honor to be
Sir,
Your most obed^t servant,

W. M. M. M.
Asst. Insp. Genl of Police

Dist. of 1876

REVENUE.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Secy, Secy, Secy.

Dated June, 23rd.

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 23rd June 1876, No. 840.

JUNE.

Nos. 239-240.

Insert note of Policy in the North Arcot Dis-
trict.—Reverting Proceedings of the Board of
Revenue regarding the —; and ordering those
Proceedings to be communicated to the Judicial
Department for the issue of the necessary orders
to the Inspector-General of Police.

4.0.23 June 1876 100 840

Ch 3003/
Revenue 1876 28th

From 21 640 ✓

The Asst. Insp. Genl.

of Police

To

The Under Secy to

Genl Secy to
Genl Secy to

Dated 21 July 1876

Recd 24th - 1876

No. _____

Received by the
Asst. Insp. Genl.
of certain for 1876

28th 1876

Supplied to

28th 1876

Received by the
Asst. Insp. Genl.